



# Sarah Estelle Clegg Lougee

**Born:** 3 September 1903  
Mapleton, Utah, Utah

**Parents:** Walter Isaac Clegg, Sr.  
Deborah Wing Smith

**Married:** John Lougee  
13 June 1925  
Dubois, Clark, Idaho

**Died:** 1 October 1979  
Blackfoot, Bingham, Idaho

## **Birth**

Sarah was born on her mother's 43 birthday. Sarah was the 13<sup>th</sup> child of her parents. The family knew Sarah as Stella until after her husband Jack had died then she started going by Sarah.

## **Sickness When A Baby**

Years before Sarah was born her parent's baby son William Albert died. When Sarah was a baby, she had the same ailment and they thought she was going to die also. They had a photo taken of her at this time. If she had not been sick, we would not have the photo of her as a baby.

## **Move to Idaho**

When Sarah was a very young child, the family moved to Idaho from Utah. The mother took the two youngest girls (Myrtle and Sarah) and daughter, Pearl rode the train. The father and the sons took their belongings in a covered wagon. Sarah's brother, Parley wrote, *"When we got up to Salt Lake City, we came right up Main Street and the horses were afraid of the street cars. We went up to Temple Square and camped on the north side of the temple where there was a high fence around a tithing lot and we built a fire and cooked supper there."*

## **Sarah's Race**

The family went to a celebration when Sarah was about three years old. The children were lined up to run a race. Sarah said it seemed like she ran with her eyes closed because she didn't know why they were running. When she was stopped, she found that she had won the race and received a package of popcorn and a paper umbrella as a prize.

## **Burned**

Sarah fell and got burned on one of her arms. It got infection in it and her whole arm swelled up.

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### **Learning to be Honest**

Sarah wrote, *Mother took us to the store one time and she always had the grocery man go around with her and see what she wanted. They had large wooden barrels with things in. One had chocolate candy in it. Myrtle said, "Come on, Stella let's eat some." I said, "No, we're not supposed to." She said, "That's what they're there for." So we started to pop them in our mouths. When Mother and the clerk saw us, he said, "Don't you know that is stealing? I am going to get the police after you." We ran out of the store and hid in the wagon box. Whenever any one would walk along the wooden sidewalk, Myrtle would say, "Keep still. That's the police after us." We never stole things again. My Mother and Father were very honest and taught us to be that way. It was a lesson I never forgot.*

### **Responsibilities during Youth**

During her growing up years, Sarah was often called upon to help her married sisters with their children. She wrote of one of these experiences.

*"We hadn't gone to school long until my sister, Pearl wrote and wanted one of us to come and help her as she had just returned from the hospital and had two little girls to take care of. Her husband was off herding sheep.*

*"Well, I was the one elected to go. Mother thought Myrtle was older and would be more help for her. I don't believe Myrtle worked as hard as I did at Pearl's.*

*"I wasn't quite ten years old yet, but I cut all her wood, carried water for her to wash, and ran a hand washer to wash the clothes. I did most of the ironing too.*

*"They had a willow bowery back of the church house. I cut it all up for wood. Jack came home to see Pearl and thought I was doing all right cutting her wood so he didn't bother to cut any. They never knew it was hard for me to cut it, as I was small for my age."*

A few years later she was called upon to help her brother's wife. She wrote.

*"My brother, Ray's wife, Viola was going to have a baby and wanted one of us to come and take care of things. They had a little girl three years old.*

*"As usual, Mother sent me. My it was hard work. I washed by hand on the wash board and carried water up the stairs in the house to wash with besides doing large ironings with hand irons.*

*"I was nearly fifteen years old and small for my age and it seemed like I was tired all the time. It was too much work for me."*

### **Bad Flu**

When the bad flu came, "we had to wear a mask when we went to town. There were an awful lot of people died with it. None of my family got it, not even the married brothers and sisters.

### **Jobs – Helped Me Become Strong**

*"We moved to Dubois and I got several jobs working for Lairds. I would wash one day for Lairds, then wash on the washboard for the family the next day. Then I would iron for Lairds the next day. I ironed from eight o'clock in the morning until eight at night besides house cleaning for Lairds. They gave me a dollar a day.*

*"I had to go out in the country to cook for a man that had hay men and his wife was in the hospital. That was a big job too as he had about nine men to cook for besides lots of dishes to wash and keep house for them. When his wife got home, I left.*

*"It seemed like all the hard jobs fell to me. Well, I guess it helped me to become strong."*

### **1st World War**

Stella's brothers were called to go to war and were sent to France. One brother, John was killed while there fighting. Her brother Afton was reported missing in action for a while. Later they found he had become sick and was in the hospital. This was a hard time for her family.

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## **Courtship and marriage**

Jack Lougee met Sarah Estelle Clegg when he went to visit his sister, Mae, who was married to Stella's brother, Joseph Clegg.

Stella wrote: "I really liked him and he seemed to like me. When he went back to work out at Rockford, Idaho on a farm, he started to write to me and soon asked me to marry him, which I consented to do."

After they were married in Dubois, Idaho they went to Rockford to live in a two-room house. Horses had been living in the house. Jack cleaned it all out and they got an old rusty stove and paint to blacken it with. She said that it would never bake anything. She cooked for the threshers on it and the pies were doughy, as they never cook so they were done.

## **Living in Monida**

It was a very cold place in the winter. They lived in a one-room log house that you could see daylight through the chinks. *"We had a cook stove and a heater in that one room. I couldn't hang clothes out [to dry]. It was so cold the clothes would freeze on the line and if a wind came up, they would pop in two. We had a line right over Rulen's bed and we never any of us had a cold all winter. We enjoyed it there."*

## **Children**

They had eight children – John Rulen, Norma Joyce, Stella Murel, Donald Earl, Lucille Emily, Shirley Faye, Deborah Lavoun, and Joanne.

As a baby Shirley was very sick and was in the hospital seven times in one winter. She was operated on for an abscess in her head; then had encephalitis and nearly came dying several times. The doctor said Shirley wouldn't live but she got better and had pretty good health. Sarah wrote: *"[She] has been a blessing to me."*

Sarah lost a baby and got phlebitis and was in the hospital for six weeks. She had so much infection she was very sick. This happened while they lived in Sharon, Idaho.

## **Sarah's Mother**

After they moved to Logan, Utah, Sarah's mother lived with them so that she could attend the temple. As she got older and couldn't go as often and Sarah and Jack moved to Layton, Utah, she went back to Dubois and stayed there until she died.

## **Testimony of Value of Living the Commandments**

*"We sort of got behind on our tithing and church going for a few years. At least I did. When Jack died I was determined to reform and start paying tithing and going to church. The Lord has blessed us, as we have never come to want. We are trying to do what is right. I still make mistakes and we don't always agree, but I am so glad to have Shirley to live with me. I love her very much. She has been a blessing to our family."*

## **Look for the Good in People**

*When my older children were small, we moved to a new neighborhood. We had three neighbors living close. None of them were Latter Day Saints.*

*One neighbor, a Mrs. Campbell, didn't want to have anything to do with us.*

*One of the three neighbors had a small girl my children played with. They all went over to Mrs. Campbell's place one day and Mrs. Campbell shoved my children out of her gate and locked it. I saw her do it, but decided to say nothing.*

*Mrs. Campbell didn't speak to us for sometime until her water froze up and she had to go some distance to get water. Ours wasn't frozen so I said, "Mrs. Campbell, put our hose over the fence and get water here." She thanked me and we became real good friends. She took care of my family when I had a new baby three different times.*

*Our neighbor living close to Mrs. Campbell had a lot of chickens and they would get over into her yard. The two would quarrel and Mrs. Campbell would throw the chickens over the fence. They had real feud going on.*

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*The neighbor with the little girl would take sides with Mrs. Campbell and it would keep trouble going. Mrs. Campbell would ask me what Mrs. Lair said about her. I said, "Oh nothing." Then Mrs. Lair would ask what Mrs. Campbell said about her. I said, "Oh, she doesn't say anything."*

*One day these two people were talking real nice to each other over the fence. We all became good friends and helped each other out. I found out they were all rally nice people and willing to help when needed. There is so much good in nearly everyone if we look for it.*

### **Gift of Compassion**

Compassion was one of the gifts that Sarah had. She was willing to help whoever might need help. She told the story about the time when she was a young homemaker. She would do the family's washing by hand on a washboard. First she would need to carry 18 buckets of water into the house and heat it on the stove. When she was finished with the family's clothes, she would carry 18 more buckets of water to do the washing for a sick neighbor.

This type of compassionate service was an every day part of Sarah's life. Her motto seemed to be, "If there is a job to be done, why shouldn't I be the one to do it?" She seemed to be willing to go and help wherever there was a need.

When she received word that her mother-in-law, Emily Lougee was sick and needed someone to help her, as she was getting old, Sarah went to help her. In speaking of Emily, Sarah often told how much she loved her; that she was like another mother to her.

Sarah helped her own children many times as she would take care of grandchildren when new ones arrived. She was a great blessing to her family.

Sarah was a beautiful example of "Charity Never Faileth."

### **Tribute**

Sarah loved her family, her husband, her children and her brothers and sisters. She loved her heritage and her Church. She had a firm testimony of the truthfulness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Her son, Donald often said that it was because of his mother that he would not smoke or drink alcohol because he knew it would hurt her.

### **Faith and the Power of the Priesthood**

Sarah wrote this article.

Healing is done through faith and the Power of the Priesthood. In the Doctrine and Covenants 46:19 it says some have faith to be healed while others have faith to heal. Joseph Smith had both on July 22, 1839 when he arose from his sick bed and healed great numbers of Saints.

Along with faith we should rely on the Holy Ghost to help us to do something for ourselves, but not forget to acknowledge the Lord and realize he knows best. If it is right that we should be healed through our faith, we will be healed.

When my daughter, Norma was a baby, she drank some water that was left over from soap making which had some lye in it. My husband was off to work so we asked my brother Joe to administer to her.

As she was screaming with pain, he said first we must do something to relieve her. He told us what to give her then he administered to her. I stayed up all night and gave her what my brother told us. Every time it was given to her, she vomited. In the morning she was resting easy but we had the doctor come and examine her. The doctor said she must not have swallowed any; outside of some burns on her lips and her mouth, she was all right and never had any more trouble.

It was through the Holy Ghost and the Power of the Priesthood that my brother knew what to have us do. I believe the Lord helps good doctors to gain wisdom but we should never forget to give and administer the Lord thanks that we have the Holy Ghost and the Priesthood to call on.

When Mother was raising her family, she always had a bottle of consecrated oil on hand and had to rely on the Lord and administration. She had great faith and had lots of healings done through prayer and the blessings of the Priesthood.

I hope the Lord will help me to have more faith, which I lack at times.

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### Sources:

*History written by Sarah Estelle Clegg Lougee*  
*Memories of her children*



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